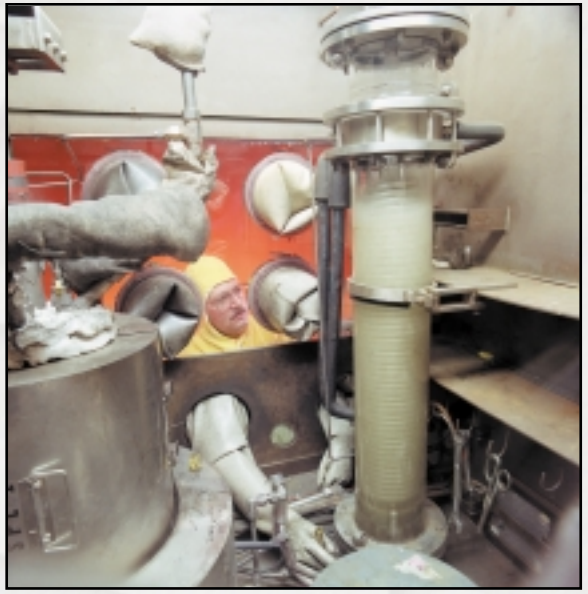
Facility Stabilization Project

Expectation:

Safely deactivate contaminated buildings to reduce risk to workers and the environment while decreasing cost to taxpayers.

Plutonium Finishing Plant Update:

- **Thermal stabilization of plutonium-bearing materials is about five months ahead of the original 1995 commitment to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.**
- **To increase the processing rate, we'll add three furnaces in January, about 4 months ahead of schedule.**
- **We plan to accelerate the stabilization of plutonium polycubes by more than two years, beginning next September, well ahead of the January 2003 target start date.**
- **We collected samples from Tank 361, a settling tank once used for PFP effluents, and conducted a non-destructive assay of the tank to learn more about its contents.**



In September, a prototype calciner at the Plutonium Finishing Plant began converting corrosive plutonium solutions to a stable, dry powder for safe storage. The primary method for stabilizing solutions – a magnesium hydroxide precipitation system – will be operational next July. The calciner will then become a backup system. In the meantime, a significant quantity of solutions can be stabilized.

Facility Stabilization Project

324 and 327 Building Updates:

- **Dismantled the largest two-story equipment rack inside the highly contaminated 324 Building B Cell. This three-story heavily shielded concrete room once held 12 such racks. The final rack has been disconnected in preparation for dismantling.**

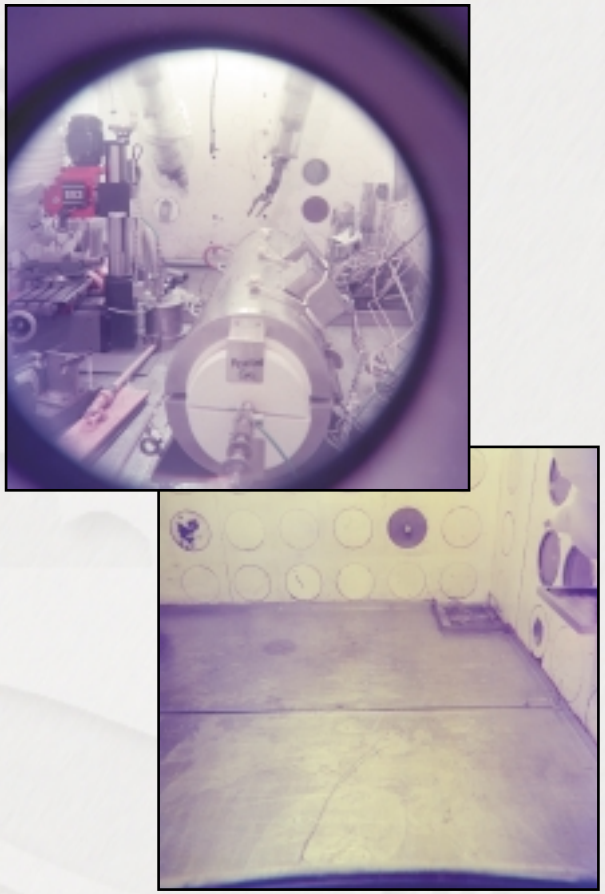
- **Completed cleanup of 327 Building hot cells F and G two months ahead of schedule.**

- **Shipped 20 drums of legacy waste buckets from the 327 facility to compliant storage in central Hanford. Another 30 to 40 drums of buckets will be packaged and shipped in fiscal 2000 as part of an accelerated deactivation initiative.**

Fast Flux Test Facility Update:

- **Energy Secretary Richardson authorized the next step in determining the future of the FFTF: a review of the environmental impacts associated with the reactor.**

- **Meanwhile, employees maintaining the reactor in standby mode have worked 1.2 million safe hours and three years without a single skin or clothing contamination.**



The 327 Building's G Cell, before and after cleanup. We finished cleanup in three of the facility's eight hot cells this year.